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Pope calls on Lebanese to reconcile

VATICAN CITY (R) — Pope John Paul urged the Lebanese people Saturday to work towards national reconciliation even if this did not automatically settle the country's external problems. He expressed hope that talks between the Lebanese and Israeli governments about the withdrawal of Israeli troops would not ignore the fate of Palestinian families "which are also sorely tried." During an audience for Nasri Salhab, Lebanon's new ambassador to the holy see, the Pope said that, in a world equipped with terrible destructive capacity, dialogue was the only responsible policy.

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Boucetta, Cambridge discuss Arab mission to London

RABAT (R) — Moroccan Foreign Minister Muhammad Boucetta conferred in Rabat Saturday with British Ambassador John Cambridge on a visit to London by an Arab League mission. The Moroccan News Agency MAP said: The agency said the seven-member mission led by King Hassan of Morocco was due in London "in the next few days." Diplomatic sources said dates at the end of January and in early February had been proposed by London. The mission postponed a visit to London last November when Britain refused to meet a PLO member in the delegation. The mission was set up last September to canvass support among the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council for an Arab League Middle East peace plan. It has already visited Washington, Paris, Moscow and Beijing. Mr. Boucetta also received Abu Marwan, the chief PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) representative in Morocco, to discuss Middle East developments, the agency said.

Poles seek emigration to West

WARSAW (R) — More than 1,000 of the men and women who were interned under martial law in Poland have since applied to emigrate to the West, the Communist Party newspaper Trybuna Ludu said. It said 1,228 former internees were among 4,166 people officially registered as applying to leave from March to December last year. Passports had been issued to 500 of those registered but only 144 had so far received visas from Western countries, it said. The authorities said early last year that released internees would be allowed to leave the country if they wished. Western embassies say they have been inundated with visa requests and some have brought in extra staff to handle the flow.

U.N. steps in to help Kurdish refugees

ROME (R) — The United Nations Saturday stepped in to help 26 Iraqi Kurds who have been shuttled between international airports for more than two weeks, officials at Rome's Fiumicino Airport said. The U.N. high commissioner for refugees is assuming responsibility for the Kurds and the Italian branch of the Catholic Charity, Caritas, will house them in Rome pending resettlement. The refugees, who say they fled Iraq because of ethnic persecution, were about to be sent back to Iran when the Italian Interior Ministry said they could temporarily enter Italy under United Nations auspices.

Italy's union federations call for strikes

ROME (R) — Italy's big three union federations, caught by surprise by a wave of spontaneous demonstrations against government austerity measures, Saturday called a series of regional strikes for next week to maintain the momentum of popular protest.

Danish captain fined for breaking British fishing law

NORTH SHIELDS, England (R) — A Danish trawler captain who was fined for breaking new British fishing rules has vowed he will prove the regulations illegal and have the judgment overturned. Kent Kirk, a fisherman's leader in Denmark and a member of the European parliament, paid up promptly Friday when he was fined 30,000 sterling (\$48,000) for a deliberate intrusion into newly-restricted British herring grounds. Britain and other Common Market countries imposed new restrictions because Denmark, in a bid to win itself a better deal, blocked a plan for regulating fishing in the whole community. Both Mr. Kirk and the Danish government believe the rules are illegal.

Politicians seek urgent end to Tripoli fighting

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese politicians tried urgently Saturday to halt fighting between pro- and anti-Syrian factions in the northern port of Tripoli where hundreds of people have been killed or wounded during the past month.

As talks were held in Tripoli and Damascus, Lebanese radio stations reported further intermittent clashes Saturday in the city of 600,000 people. Universities, schools and banks remained closed there, state-run Beirut Radio said.

Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq Al Wazzan flew to Damascus to see Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, and in Tripoli itself former Premier Rashid Karami, a native of the city, conferred with leaders of anti-Syrian factions.

The fighting, which has recurred at intervals over the past 18 months, involves the Syrian-backed Arab Democratic Party against a loose coalition of anti-Syrian groups, including pro-Iraqi and Islamic factions.

The usually well-informed Beirut daily newspaper An Nahar reported Saturday from Tripoli that 168 people had been killed and 587 wounded since the latest bout of fighting began a month ago.

Mr. Wazzan made clear in a newspaper interview published here Saturday that he held Syrian peacekeeping forces responsible for security in Tripoli.

He told the daily Al Bayraq he was going to Damascus to define this responsibility and to remove obstacles for a restoration of peace in Tripoli.

The all-Syrian Arab Deterrent Force (ADF) has been deployed in and around Tripoli since it entered Lebanon in 1976 to end a civil war there. The anti-Syrians have charged that ADF artillery is shelling them from hills near the city.

In Tripoli, Mr. Karami and another former premier from the city, Amin Al Hafez, met representatives of four anti-Syrian groupings, state radio said.

A spokesman said the meeting had agreed on an immediate ceasefire, withdrawal of all armed men "especially foreigners," removal of heavy arms from the city and the entrusting of security duties to the Lebanese authorities.

A previous Karami plan proposed the division of security duties

between the government's paramilitary Internal Security Forces (ISF) and a joint militia force. But this was rejected by the anti-Syrians, who demanded deployment of the army.

The leftist Beirut daily As Safir reported Saturday that the anti-Syrians were coming round to a compromise on the ISF taking over the city rather than the army.

While Mr. Karami maintains close links with Syria and its supporters in Tripoli, no pro-Syrian representatives were at Saturday's meeting, and their reaction was not immediately known.

Several previous ceasefire announcements have had only limited effect on the fighting.

Several hours after Saturday's reported agreement, state radio said shooting could still be heard in the city despite the despatch of committees there to try to implement a ceasefire.

UNIFIL mandate

Lebanon is seeking a six-month renewal of the mandate of United Nations Peacekeeping Forces in southern Lebanon and a future expansion of their role and area of deployment, U.N. sources said Saturday.

President Amin Gemayel made the request Friday night to visiting U.N. Under Secretary-General Brian Urquhart. The current mandate of the 7,000-man U.N. Truce Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), formed in 1978, expires on Jan. 19.

2 French ministers on Gulf visits

BAHRAIN (R) — Two senior French ministers were engaged in separate visits to the Gulf Saturday as part of France's stepped-up efforts for closer ties with the oil-rich region, also a big market for Western weapons and consumer goods.

In Muscat, French Defence Minister Charles Hernu arrived for two days of talks on Oman's role in the defence of the Straits of

Arafat in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat arrived here Saturday via Ramtha for a visit to Jordan and a meeting with His Majesty King Hussein. During the visit Mr. Arafat is expected to be briefed by the King on the outcome of his recent talks with President Reagan and U.S. senior officials and to continue the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue.

In an arrival statement at the border post of Ramtha Mr. Arafat voiced his satisfaction with his personal relationship with King Hussein and referred to the deep understanding between Jordanians and Palestinians aimed at attaining Palestinian people's aspirations and safeguarding Arab national interests.

He described the Jordanian-Palestinian relations as "eternal, marked by the true Arab nature."

In reply to a question on recent statements that criticised the Jordanian-Palestinian meetings, Mr. Arafat reaffirmed the unity and the soundness of the Palestinian position at such meetings.

"The recent statement issued in Amman following PLO talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and the Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Committee meetings clearly defined the strong bilateral and true national ties binding the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples," Mr. Arafat pointed out.

In reply to Israeli calls for the establishment of a Palestinian homeland other than Palestine Mr. Arafat said that "Palestine is the only homeland for the Palestinians and Jerusalem is their capital."

Present at the border post of Ramtha to meet Mr. Arafat, were Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Hassan Ibrahim, senior Jordanian officials, PLO representative in Jordan Abdul Razzak Al Yahya and other senior PLO officials and the deported mayor of Hebron Fahd Al Qawasmil.

His Majesty King Hussein chairs a meeting at the army headquarters Saturday to brief senior officers on the outcome of his recent tour abroad (Petra photo).

Abu Odeh calls for Jordanian-U.S. intellectual meetings to seek peace

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Information Adnan Abu Odeh Saturday called for meetings between intellectuals from Jordan and the United States to have a dialogue aimed at promoting the cause of peace in the Middle East. He said in the present difficult circumstances the United States can play a major positive role towards establishing a just and durable peace in the region.

The minister, who was speaking at a meeting with the leaders of the World Affairs Councils of America, said that the American public ought to realise the facts about the Palestine problem. "It is really your duty as political leaders concerned with international relations to convey to the American people the facts about the Middle East despite the numerous difficulties laid in your path by Israel which is keen on misleading Western thoughts and exploiting its cultural background," the minister said.

On Jordanian-Palestinian relations, Mr. Abu Odeh told his

guests that the current coordination between the two sides constitutes a major factor towards serving the cause of peace aspired by the world at large.

"Jordan," Mr. Abu Odeh said, "aims at reaching a just and honourable peace that would safeguard the legitimate rights of all the peoples in the region including the Palestinians." The only major obstacle to peace in the region, he added is Israel's intransigence and its expansionist policies.

"The Arab countries have not rejected President Reagan's peace plan and have submitted the Fez plan, whereas Israel continues to reject both initiatives and intensifies its efforts to abort peaceful solutions including that of the U.S. president," Mr. Abu Odeh said.

He said that Israel's settlement policy is aimed at expanding the Zionist state at the expense of Arab countries, and by rejecting Arab peace bids Israel is indeed losing a rare historical opportunity that could not be compensated in the future.

The American group earlier met with Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Hassan Ibrahim to discuss the situation in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories.

Mr. Ibrahim spoke about Israel's arbitrary measures against the Arab inhabitants of the areas, its establishment of settlements on confiscated Arab lands and its repressive actions against Arab educational and health institutions.

The delegation which arrived here Thursday for a visit to Jordan expected to last several days were also briefed by the minister on the Jordanian position with regard to the Middle East conflict and Arab efforts to establish a just and durable peace based on U.N. and Arab summit resolutions.

Later Saturday the American group met with members of the World Affairs Council in Jordan for a dialogue on various Middle East developments and prospects of peace in the region.

80 suspected of being affected with diphtheria

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 80 people suspected of being affected with diphtheria have been admitted to Al Bashir and University of Jordan hospitals in Amman since Dec. 20, according to Dr. Sulaiman Qub'ain, director of the Health Ministry's health care department.

Out of this number, he said, eight proven cases are being treated at the University of Jordan Hospital and one case at Al Bashir Hospital with an additional nine suspected cases still under observation.

So far only three people have died, including a 10-year-old boy who died at Al Bashir Hospital Friday, Dr. Qub'ain said.

As to the measures taken by the ministry to deal with the situation, Dr. Qub'ain said that all suspected cases are admitted immediately to hospital for treatment where they are placed under strict medical surveillance and their contacts like schoolmates and close relatives are inoculated against the disease. He said there is no need for

worry or concern provided all children get their anti-diphtheria vaccination on time and in accordance with Health Ministry regulations. However, he said, people are advised to avoid crowded places and to call on a doctor in case of high fever or sore throats.

The Health Ministry has recently invited a specialist in diphtheria cases from the World Health Organisation for consultations and has distributed vaccines to all its medical centres around the country to help stem the spreading of diphtheria. Dr. Qub'ain said.

He also criticised policies of the Begin government, and encouraged recent negotiations about the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the Arab occupied territories.

The prisoners who appeared in the interview appeared in good health and sent their greetings to their families.

JTV will broadcast the rest of the interviews with the Israeli prisoners during the coming days. Meanwhile, Palestinian sources have said that the PLO will agree to free the Israeli soldiers only if the Israelis free all the Palestinian detainees at Al Anssar Camp in Lebanon and all other Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails who are sentenced to 15 years or more.

The source said that the free Palestinians should have the choice to either stay in the occupied territories or leave after they are released.

Howe in Riyadh to seek Saudi loans to IMF

BAHRAIN (R) — Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Sir Geoffrey Howe arrived in Saudi Arabia Saturday, stressing quick action to find ways to support the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

Sir Geoffrey is in Saudi Arabia in his capacity as chairman of the IMF's key 22-member interim committee. He is accompanied by IMF Managing Director Jacques De Larosiere.

According to monetary sources in Washington, Sir Geoffrey will seek four to five billion dollars in Saudi loans to shore up the IMF's dwindling resources and enable the agency to help poorer countries with their balance of payments problems.

King briefs officers on outcome of his visit

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein chaired a meeting at the army headquarters Saturday afternoon to brief the senior officers on the outcome of his visits to China, the Soviet Union and France at the head of an Arab League seven-member committee to explain the Fez summit peace plan.

The King also spoke about the talks he held in Washington with President Reagan and other senior U.S. officials on peace efforts and Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

Attending the meeting were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt. Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Army Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb, the directors of public security, civil defence and general intelligence services.

At an earlier meeting at the army headquarters King Hussein passed several directives of concern to the Jordanian Armed Forces.

JTV interviews Israeli POWs

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Television Saturday broadcast an interview with Israeli prisoners of war detained by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) forces in Lebanon.

JTV Hebrew broadcast Haroun Mahmid recently, visited the Israeli prisoners and spent several days with them.

Mr. Mahmid recorded the interview for the JTV.

In Saturday's programme, on of the Israeli war prisoners said that he and his colleagues were treated well by the Palestinian forces.

He also criticised policies of the Begin government, and encouraged recent negotiations about the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the Arab occupied territories.

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W. German election campaigns begin

BONN (R) — Full-scale campaigning began Saturday for West Germany's general elections on March 6 with unemployment and U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles emerging as the main issues.

The campaigns got into swing after three weeks of preliminary skirmishing which started when Chancellor Helmut Kohl deliberately lost a parliamentary no-confidence vote.

The election date was fixed Friday by President Karl Carstens who dissolved parliament despite what he called misgivings about the no-confidence vote procedure.

Mr. Kohl, who pledged spring

elections when he took power in October, called the vote to overcome a constitutional barrier preventing parliament from dissolving itself.

A private-lawyer Friday laid objections before the constitutional court which meets on Tuesday but legal experts say the objection is unlikely to prevent or delay the poll.

The Christian Democrats (CDU), Mr. Kohl's party, made it clear Saturday they would lay the blame for West Germany's growing unemployment rate on the left-liberal government of former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

Mr. Schmidt's government fell

when the small liberal Free Democratic Party (FDP) quit his Social Democrats (SPD) and formed a new coalition with the conservatives.

CDU General Secretary and Health Minister Heiner Geissler branded the SPD as "the party of unemployment, bankruptcy and state debts."

Unemployment in West Germany rose by half a million last year to reach 3.2 million in December—9.1 per cent of the workforce—and is expected to hit the 2.5 million mark before the end of this winter.

Conservatives have said they believe the electorate is sophis-

ticated enough to realise that the centre-right coalition has not had enough time to make inroads on a rising unemployment rate left by the previous government.

SPD executive member Wolfgang Roth responded by accusing the government of doing nothing about unemployment and leaving market forces to deal with the problem.

If unemployment is undoubtedly the issue which most worries the average voter, the prospect of medium-range U.S. nuclear missiles being deployed in West Germany later this year is a close second.

Calm prevails in Corsica after week-long turmoil

AJACCIO, Corsica (R) — Corsica was calm Saturday after a week of political turmoil as guerrillas seeking the island's independence from France drastically reduced the level of violence.

Informed sources said the Corsican National Liberation Front (FLNC) was reconsidering its strategy after being outlasted by the government and suffering a wave of condemnation by ordinary Corsicans.

Police said the only incident in the past 24 hours was the destruction by a bomb of a small yacht in the northern port of Calvi during the night.

More than 200 people demon-

strated Saturday at Petreto-Bicchisano near Ajaccio against the FLNC bombing campaign in the second large-scale public repudiation of the guerrillas this week.

The sources said the sudden fall in the number of attacks by the FLNC, which carried out almost 700 bombings last year, was partly due to intensified police activity against them.

Nationalist sources indicated also that a split had emerged in the FLNC between militants who wanted to continue the campaign of violence and moderates favouring increased emphasis on political action.

Nationalists are angry that Cor-

sican criminals have exploited the separatist campaign and helped blacken it in the eyes of the public by using intimidation and violence on their own account in the FLNC's name.

"People receiving extortion demands often have no way of knowing whether they come genuinely from the FLNC or from ordinary criminals," a police source said.

The demonstration at Petreto-Bicchisano was called in support of local chemist Thierry Cazon whose shop was bombed last week for the third time when he refused to pay an extortion demand.

The guerrillas do not deny making financial demands on rich Cor-

sicans and on French families whom they are trying to force out of Corsica.

Informed sources said militant members of the FLNC were exerting pressure within the organisation for a renewed campaign of violence in mainland France as part of the next phase of FLNC activity.

Attacks in France stopped during a truce the FLNC observed for a period after President Francois Mitterrand's Socialist government came to power in May 1981.

The sources added that although the violence had been scaled down after a surge in the number of bombings at the end of 1982, the systematic intimidation

of French settlers in Corsica was continuing.

"People are still getting telephone calls at night warning them to leave the island for good," they said.

Police Commissioner Robert Broussard, former head of the anti-gang brigade in Paris, is due to arrive in Ajaccio early next week to take over command of the police in Corsica.

He was appointed by President Mitterrand on Wednesday as part of a crackdown on the guerrillas by the government which has temporarily abandoned efforts to conciliate militant nationalists in Corsica.

Informed sources in London do not expect the recent tension between Britain and Saudi Arabia to be raised during Sir Geoffrey's visit.

British Foreign Secretary Francis Pym had to cancel planned visit to Riyadh this month when he was told he would not be welcome, in view of Britain's rebuff to a visit to London by an Arab League mission that was have included a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Saudi Arabia, a strong supporter of the PLO, has in the past pressed for observer status for the PLO in the IMF, but met U.N. States opposition.

HOME NEWS

Arab host countries discuss status of Palestinian refugees

By Affiah A. Kaloti
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The status of Palestinian people in the Arab World, travel, residence, work and travel documents were the major issues discussed Saturday by delegates of Arab countries hosting Palestinian refugees.

Delegates representing Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Arab League gathered here for the 30th session of the conference of Arab countries hosting Palestinian refugees to review the conditions of Palestinian refugees and the services offered to them by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA). Delegates at the seven-day conference, which opened last Tuesday, received during Saturday's session a telegram from the UNRWA. Teachers Association in Lebanon saying that teachers as well as employees of the agency are threatened with dismissals if they do not resume work ignoring

the conditions of their Israeli-detained colleagues and other displaced employees.

The conference responded to the cable by issuing several recommendations including a proposal that the Lebanese government form a working committee in Lebanon to handle refugees' issues in the light of resolutions adopted at past conferences of host Arab countries for Palestinian refugees.

The proposed committee should include representatives of Lebanese government, the PLO and the UNRWA, the conference suggested.

During the meeting it was agreed that a united Arab stand regarding refugees' issues will be

taken in the emergency meeting of the UNRWA's consultative committee to be held in Vienna at a date still to be decided on.

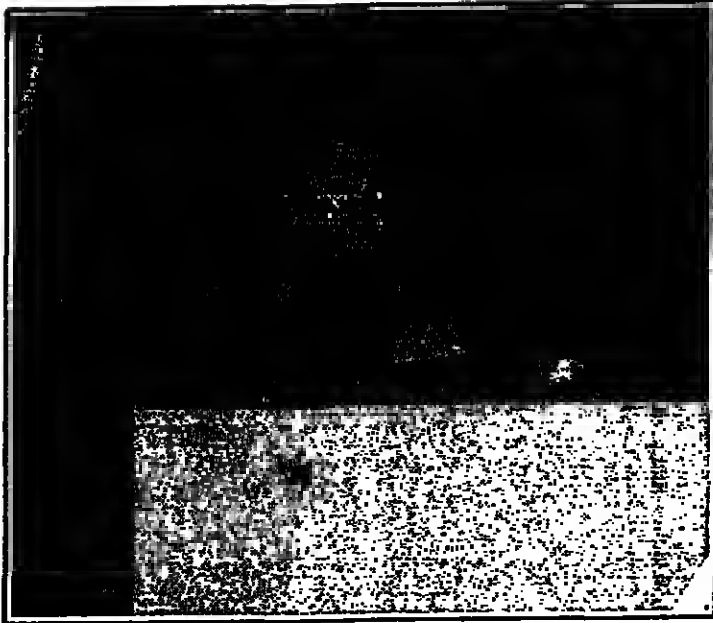
Representatives from Belgium, France, Japan, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States will participate in the Vienna meeting.

The conference also reviewed recommendations by the United Nations General Assembly in its last session on the Palestinian issue.

Delegates noted that all recommendations related to the Palestinian issue and affairs whether in the occupied territories or looked after by the UNRWA are always rejected by the U.S.

The delegates condemned the American stand on such issues and recommended that future cooperation among Arab countries as well as among U.N. member states will be based on their stands towards the Palestinian issue.

The conference is expected to conclude its meetings Sunday and recommended that its next session will be held next July at the Arab League General Secretariat headquarters in Tunis.



Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Saturday addresses a gathering at the Royal Command and Staff Academy at the occasion of opening a new training course for army officers (Petra photo)

Meeting reviews national plan for public safety

AMMAN (Petra) — Provincial governors met at the Ministry of Interior Saturday to discuss a comprehensive public safety plan at the national level.

The meeting was chaired by Interior Minister Ahmad Obeidat, who said that the proposed plan defines the basic elements of public safety issues and suggests solutions.

The plan, he said, calls for defining priorities of projects to be implemented and defines the tasks and responsibilities of supervising government services which implement such projects, and calls for coordination among various public safety committees and provincial governors.

According to the minister, the

plan provides for creating an atmosphere of cooperation and interaction between the public and public safety committees in various governorates.

At the end of the meeting Mr. Obeidat said that district governors are expected to submit their proposals and recommendations within a week to the Ministry of Interior on the proposed plan and ways of its implementation.

The meeting also reviewed steps and measures taken in the past week to deal with the effects of weather conditions. They studied ways of improving methods to handle similar situations.

Minister stresses need to improve conditions of teachers, more schools

IRBID (Petra) — Minister of Education Sa'id Al Tal said here Saturday that the Ministry of Education is concerned over two basic issues, namely to improve the living and social conditions of teachers and to solve the problem of school buildings shortage in the country.

The minister, who was speaking at a ceremony to mark the inauguration of a new Education Department building in Irbid, stressed the importance of decentralisation in the educational process. The director of education in a governorate is regarded the highest educational authority who enjoys as much power in his region as that of the minister, Dr. Tal

said. He said that the Ministry of Education is the central authority merely in drawing up plans and charting educational policies and supervising their implementation. Speaking at the ceremony also was Irbid Governorate Director of Education Mohammad Al Halalshah who said that the new JD 200,000 building opened Saturday will cater for all administrative and technical educational expansion.

Dr. Tal later inspected different sections of the department and visited the Irbid Comprehensive School for Girls where he chaired a meeting of educational supervisors in Irbid Governorate to discuss educational activity.

Sharif Zaid opens training course for officers

AMMAN (Petra) — Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker opened Saturday a new training course for army officers at the Royal Command and Staff Academy in Amman.

In a speech to the participants who included a number of army officers from other Arab countries, Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid spoke about Israel's expansionist policies and the need for serious efforts for cooperation among Arab states armed forces for confronting them. He called for a mobilisation of Arab resources to "enable the nation to recover its usurped territory and liberate its people now under Zionist occupation."

Sharif Zaid said: "In opening a similar training course last year I remember warning of Israel's continued aggression and expansionist policies in the Arab World. The Israelis are no doubt aided in their adventures by their military superiority and helped in their plans by continued divisions among Arab ranks."

"Today I again remind of the looming danger and refer to that danger that manifested itself in the invasion of Lebanon and the massacres Israel committed there."

The academy commander, who also delivered a speech on the occasion, said that the new course includes 29 officers from other Arab countries, the biggest number thus far.

Chief of Staff Maj.-Gen. Fathi Ahn Taleb and other senior army officers.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russeifa to have public building complex

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cities and Villages Development Bank (CVDB) approved Saturday a tender for constructing a government departments complex at Russeifa at a cost of JD 388,618. Work on the project, which will be financed by Russeifa Municipality, is expected to start after signing a contract with a local firm. The municipality is obtaining a loan from the CVDB to build the complex.

Union team to convey condolences to Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian labour delegation left for Baghdad Saturday to convey condolences to labour union leaders on the death of the Iraqi union's leader, Khalil Abu Khnrmah, and the labour union's president in Basra. Both unionists died in a road accident on Thursday. The Jordanian delegation is led by the vice president of the General Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions, Mohammad Al Sayyed.

European Parliament official expected

AMMAN (Petra) — The chairman of the political affairs committee of the European Parliament is due here Jan. 15 for a visit to Jordan expected to last several days. He is expected to hold talks with Jordanian officials on Middle East developments.

Madaba to plant saplings on Arbor Day

MADABA (Petra) — The agricultural department here says a total of 4,000 forest saplings are now available for planting by members of the public on Jan. 15, the national Arbor Day. According to department, the area to be planted is nearly 200 dunams in Madaba and the surrounding area. In addition it said, 11,475 saplings will be planted in pasture lands in Madaba District during the current agricultural season.

University of Jordan examinations begin

AMMAN (Petra) — Mid-year examinations started Saturday at the University of Jordan's different faculties. After the week-long session, the university will be closed until Feb. 5 when it will open for the second half of the current academic year.

Irbid towns get development loans

IRBID (Petra) — The Cities and Villages Development Bank (CVDB) has approved a loan of JD 50,000 to Anjara town in Irbid Governorate and JD 20,000 for nearby Ba'oun and Samou'. The loans will finance building of schools, purchase of land for municipal purposes and construction of roads.

literacy brought down to 30% in 21 years

AMMAN (Petra) — The minister of education, and head of the Jordanian Committee for Adult Education and Eradication of Illiteracy, Dr. Sa'id Al Tal said today the percentage of illiteracy in Jordan has fallen from 67 per cent in 1961 to 30 per cent in 1982.

Marking the Illiteracy Eradication Day, Mr. Tal said in a statement on the occasion that plan was among the first

developing countries that made an early beginning at setting up a nine-year compulsory education system, aimed at "filtering the very origin of illiteracy by educating all youngsters."

The Ministry of Education, Dr. Tal said, offers every possible support for opening adult education classes to the extent of holding classes with qualified teachers and books to any number of citizens above the age of 15.

Jan. 8 was decided upon by the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO) as the Illiteracy Eradication Day. The ALECSO has also set up an Arab fund for the eradication of illiteracy in the Arab World aimed at providing assistance for Arab member states' programmes in the field, and organising new adult education programmes, in addition to training specialists and staff personnel for the purpose.

Delegations to attend meeting of Union of Arab Universities

AMMAN (J.T.) — Delegations representing two Jordanian universities have left for Khartoum to take part in Union of Arab Universities (UAC) meeting scheduled to open Sunday. The delegation representing the University of Jordan is headed by Vice-President Mahmoud Al Samra and Bethlehem University is headed by its president, Dr. Michael Sabbah. During the four-day meeting the delegations will discuss a number of subjects connected with bolstering scientific and educational cooperation among Arab universities and ways of boosting scientific research along with topics pertaining to the union's administrative and financial affairs.

Central Bank asks exchangers to follow strict regulations

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Central Bank has asked all moneychangers in Jordan to abide strictly by regulations issued by the bank regarding foreign exchange transactions. A circular distributed to the moneychangers said that they have to keep daily lists of exchange rates all currencies they deal with and place them in prominent places for the public to see clearly. The moneychangers were asked also to keep records of all transactions and all deposits of foreign currency they have and their corresponding value in Jordanian currency as well as accounts books which should contain accurate figures that can be referred to in legal procedures.

Mining company prospects for phosphates in northern Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Phosphates Mines Company (JPMC) Director-General Ali Nsour formed Saturday a special committee to conduct a survey on two sites between Dair Abi Sa'id and Wadi Samoun' in the northern part of the country where phosphates deposits were reported to have been spotted.

The University of Jordan had informed the JPMC of the presence of phosphates in the region and according to the company's Deputy Technical Director Ishaq Al Jallad the JPMC and the university will continue to cooperate in the field of developing Jordan's natural resources.

He said a six-member university team had reported the find during its visit to conduct scientific studies in the region towards the end of the last year.

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30: dia/Pakistan: a "modus vivendi" 35 years of conflict?

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Scanning electron microscope makes science-fiction out of mundane objects

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At the American Centre this week are a series of photographs that seem to depict strange and exciting landscapes of other worlds, where no human being ever set foot. There in black and white are the weird and wonderful vistas envisioned by science fiction writers.

With a little imagination you can lose yourself in vast (the sense of scale is entirely individual) primeval forests of articulated spines. You can be frightened by gigantic insects, that crawl like living nightmares out of the sand or you can be entranced by the beauty of the simple forms that lay scattered in forgotten valleys like the sherds of previous civilisations. All are lit, not by the friendly yellow rays of the sun but by the cold, penetrating, neon glare of an alien star which gives a dreamlike clarity and a depth that is almost tangible.

Far from being shots of the surface of Jupiter brought back by some wandering satellite, however, these photographs are of much more mundane objects — leaves, cucumbers, mites — as seen under the amazing magnification of the scanning electron microscope (SEM). In these days of mass communications we have all seen the fascinating results of this process from time to time, but what makes these shots so different from the normal SEM pictures is that the microscope has been manipulated to give the images it produces the qualities of a landscape.

In other words the SEM has been used as an artistic tool, much

in the same way as one would use a brush and not by a scientist, but by an artist — James Neal Phillips.

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, Phillips, a ceramicist, first became interested in the SEM during his studies at the University of Iowa. A poster from the Biology Department with a photograph of an object that looked very similar to the forms Phillips was at that time creating in clay, offered lessons on how to use the SEM to students outside the faculty. Phillips applied and gained a grant to use the SEM from an aesthetic point of view — much to the initial scepticism of the laboratory technicians and biology students. Later when they saw the results he was obtaining they became so enthusiastic they would constantly be offering him their

along with the labelling of the actual specimen photographed are not important. He argues that the viewer should detach himself from these irrelevances and let his imagination run loose so that he can enjoy the beauty of nature's incomparable forms and allow himself to "wander through these landscapes beyond the periphery".

Phillips believes his work to be unique. Although a lot of scientists have published these images in the form of coffee table books for the wonder and aesthetic pleasure of the layman, none have manipulated the microscope in order to achieve different effects. As to a scientist, an impressive image is one that must be discarded.

The artist maintains that he has barely scratched the surface of this field, the potential of the SEM being enormous. "A person could spend an entire artistic lifetime using it, and with the continual improvement of the microscope there are more and more new effects waiting to be discovered." In the future Phillips would like to add colour to the process which would be done in an arbitrary way by inputting the black and white print into a video screen.

Whether these photographs can be classed as "art" is discussed in a provocative introduction written by the artist, some points of which few would disagree with. Whatever one's personal viewpoint, these photographs are original immensely stimulating and totally absorbing.

The exhibition opens Sunday at 6:00 p.m. after the artist has given a lecture about his work, and continues until Tuesday, Jan. 18.

ART REVIEW

own new finds to photograph.

Over a period of a year and a half, Phillips produced some 300 photographs, of which this exhibit is but a small selection. They are however sufficient to show how Phillips played with the SEM controls to make his landscapes. By rotating the specimen through 360° by moving it backwards and forwards, to the right and to the left, as he did in "Fungus 2" he smeared the image and achieved waves and ripples — an illusion of water.

The spidery parallel lines of web-like texture as seen in "Abstract" (which Phillips terms as "the linear description of surface light intensity") are produced at the flip of a toggle switch. And so on.

But these details, Phillips feels

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Jordan Times

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Some find it difficult to read a newspaper in Indonesia

By Ian Tansel
Reporter

JAKARTA — Essential equipment for reading foreign newspapers in Indonesia includes a pair of rubber gloves, tweezers and a powerful lamp.

It is common in Jakarta's hotel lobbies to see people trying to peel apart the sticky pages of Time or Newsweek magazines with ink-blackened fingers.

Others peer at fellow guests through a hole neatly cut in the front page of the Asian Wall Street Journal or myopically hold the International Herald Tribune

up to the light.

The reason is censorship, which officially does not exist.

Subscribers to the Herald Tribune who telephoned the distributors recently to ask why they had not received their copy were told the entire issue had fallen victim to censorship and been banned by the attorney general's office.

The ban was apparently due to an article on President Suharto's leadership style, reprinted from

the Washington Post.

Enterprising readers, wielding eyelash tweezers in sticky fingers, can often get clues to the offending articles from the odd words still legible under a mass of printers' ink. Others, their curiosity aroused, get copies under plain cover from abroad or photocopies from embassies.

The constitution guarantees freedom of expression, both written and spoken, but the local press is bound by a "consensus" with

the government not to publish news which might inflame religious or ethnic sentiments, or other matters deemed sensitive.

As foreign journalists are not included in this, the only way to control the inflow of their news into Indonesia is by censorship.

Last May the government effectively banned seven foreign newspapers by not renewing their import licences — the Dutch NRC Handelsblad, the London Observer, Le Figaro, L'aurore

and France-Soir from France, and Australia's Sydney Morning Herald and the Australian.

Censoring of the foreign press still allowed in is sometimes done haphazardly by importers.

A recent Newsweek edition on Hong Kong, for example, had its front cover completely blackened and papered over apparently because it showed a street scene with many billboards and shop signs in Chinese characters.

Displays of Chinese characters

have been banned in Indonesia since the abortive Communist coup of 1965 which the government said was masterminded by Peking.

Ironically those responsible for blacking out the offending characters apparently cannot distinguish Chinese from Japanese or Korean script, which also suffer when they appear in pictures or advertisements.

Importers of foreign magazines and newspapers are sometimes

overzealous in self-censoring articles.

But one company spokesman said if they always waited for a decision from the attorney general's office, subscribers would complain of late delivery.

So they black out every Indonesian-dated story and all script which could be Chinese.

The local press also suffers censorship. Last year one daily newspaper and one national news magazine had their publication

permits revoked for months for reporting general election violence and carrying the unofficial election results.

A new press law abolished the need for individual publications to obtain such permits but made it compulsory for a publishing company to have a general "licence" for press publication.

Critics of the new law say it strengthens the government's control over the national press.

They say the government can now paralyse a company's entire operation, instead of just closing down one of its publications.

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Symbol of the alternative

LEBANESE President Amin Gemayel's last appeal for help from U.S. President Ronald Reagan is not Lebanon's best hope of getting the occupying Israeli forces out of that country. Syrian and Palestinian withdrawal from the Bekaa Valley and the north under the present circumstances is not the answer either. Mere Arab condemnation of Israel's militaristic behaviour and policies of extortion and blackmail seems to encourage rather than deter aggression. The United Nations is politically bankrupt, and the international community looks helpless to do anything about the situation.

There is not, then, much hope that Lebanon will regain its sovereignty soon, except through an Israeli-dictated terms orchestrated and blessed by the United States. Yet, however, resistance attacks against invading Israelis were stepped up, raising hopes of renewed determination to fight the enemy and illuminating but a dark area of a much-needed Arab strength.

The guerrilla attacks, whether carried out by Lebanese or Palestinian groups or individuals, symbolise the alternative to giving up. It may not be militarily significant that Israel lost nine soldiers, and another 33

injured, in Lebanon since Dec. 1, but the attacks should constantly remind the Israelis of the price they have to pay for their aggression and continued occupation of that, or any other, Arab country and territory. It is now high time for the Arabs to remember that without the will to fight and resist and to build up the necessary strength for defending the homeland, Israel is unlikely ever to abandon its expansionist plans to build an empire from the Nile to the Euphrates.

Lebanon, as we should be well aware, cannot be left as a test case for American diplomacy in the Middle East. At stake there is whether Israel could bring the Lebanese to negotiate first and then agree to Israeli filling the Arab vacuum, right under U.S. auspices. In that case, President Gemayel may appeal for help from the U.S. and the whole world may remain silent, but the Arabs cannot simply afford to leave it up to the Israelis to reap the fruit of their occupation of half of the country. The fact that Arab resistance groups are stepping up their attacks against the Israeli occupation forces at this difficult time proves that neither has the battle been lost nor will the Arabs give up easily, but that much more needs to be done.

JORDAN'S ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Time for U.S. to break self-created barriers

A few days ago Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir pointed out that direct Israeli-Palestinian talks were under way to outline an agreement for the release of Israeli prisoners of war held by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Following that, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Palestinian forces Khalil Al Wazir dismissed as "unfounded" Mr. Shamir's statement.

Nevertheless, the fact remains that Israel, some way or another, is ready to hold talks with the PLO, regardless of the motives, or whether real contacts have taken place or not.

Does not this principle of Israeli acceptance of holding talks with PLO representatives rebut all excuses made by the U.S. administration for not entering into a direct dialogue with the Palestinian leadership?

It is obvious that the prisoners' issue is a by-product of the Palestinian problem, and a direct part of the military confrontation between the occupying Israeli forces and Palestinian fighters, in Lebanon and which definitely testifies to the political nature of the issue. And as long as Israel is

ready to talk this aspect of the root-problem, it is strange that the U.S. administration should have any reservations to opening a direct dialogue with the PLO, and reconsidering its attitude towards Palestinian rights.

It may be argued that the prisoners issue is a human one, but this can not rule out the political background of the question. A similar situation now presents itself. Palestinian rights are basically political, but this does not deny these rights their human aspect.

It is hard to find any reasonable justification for the U.S. administration to refrain from holding direct talks with the PLO on Palestinian human rights, when Israel has accepted the principle of direct talks with the PLO on the Israeli prisoners' question.

The time has come for the Americans to bypass the barrier they had created themselves, and their stand towards the Palestinians and their legitimate representatives has far hardened the Israeli line of thinking, and made any progress in the peace process in the region rather difficult.

Dustour: Israel tries another form of blackmail

Israeli President Yishak Navon asserts that the Palestinian people should have held solidarity rallies in Israel for his barbaric invasion of Lebanon, and human crimes committed against the Palestinian Lebanese people. Mr. Navon also seems to hint that the Egyptian press should have favoured mass annihilation of defenceless civilians by Israel and hailed them as glorious deeds, or else it would be conspiring against peace in the region, according to the Israeli book.

Furthermore, if the Egyptians do not withhold their tongue and stop criticising Israeli crimes, they will be in a position to support President Navon's peace initiative for the Middle East. The whole world condemned the barbarian and

Nazi-style Israeli practices against the Palestinian and Lebanese people, but to Navon and the extremist mentality that administers Israel, it is unforgivable that the Egyptian people, press and government take a responsible stand towards the Israeli invasion and war-crimes in Lebanon. The argument behind such falsifications is that they represent a violation of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

If this is the case, and taking into account the blatant failure of the Israeli-Lebanese negotiations on Lebanon, and nevertheless, the ineffective American role in these talks, it is quite natural to apprehend that peace prospects for the Middle East can in no way be promising.

Investigation into the Sabra and Shatila massacres nearing the end

By Galina Vromen
Reuter

TEL AVIV — A judicial inquiry into the Beirut massacre of Palestinians, whose hearings have rocked Israel, is nearing the end of a potentially explosive investigation that began almost 11 weeks ago. It is winding up behind closed doors, with the three-man commission taking final testimony from generals and politicians anxious to answer damaging allegations about their role.

For the past week the commission has mostly heard testimony from witnesses who chose to appear because they wanted a chance to clear their names or rebut evidence given by others. The atmosphere has changed since the commission began its sittings on Oct. 19 in a drab classroom on Jerusalem's Hebrew University campus. At the start it was just the commission, headed by Chief Justice Yitzhak Kahan, which asked the questions.

Burly generals wriggled uncomfortably on the witness seat as they explained why and how Israel sent Falangists into Beirut refugee camps to round up Palestinian guerrillas — an operation that turned into tragedy when the Lebanese militia began killing hundreds of innocent, defenceless civilians. Defence Minister Ariel Sharon gulped down glass after glass of water when he faced the commission at its first open session.

The dramatic move that changed the whole tenor of the investigation was the commission's warning to nine witnesses that they could be harmed by its findings. The nine included Prime Minister Menachem Begin, Mr. Sharon, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and three top generals. It prompted most of the nine

to hire lawyers, whose cross-examination of witnesses and frequent interventions have given the hearings a courtroom atmosphere.

After the last evidence is heard, it will probably take weeks for the commission to sift through volumes of transcripts and compile its report. Mr. Begin has made clear that if his government is blamed, he will press for a general election. Public sessions showed the commission focussing on what the government knew of the operation's risks and how quickly Israel moved to stop the killings once it heard of the massacre.

Massacre in detail

Following is a detailed picture of last September's events as it emerged at the commission hearings:

4 PM: first reports that Falange leader and president-elect Bashir Gemayel may have been assassinated in explosion at Phalange headquarters in Beirut. 8 PM: midnight: Israelis, in meetings between Defence Minister Ariel Sharon, Mr. Begin and Chief of Staff Rafael Eitan, plan to move into west Beirut to police area if Gemayel has been killed. When assassination is confirmed, Israeli troops are ordered to enter west Beirut at dawn.

Wednesday, Sept. 15
5 AM: Israeli troops enter Beirut. Around the same time, General Eitan and General Amir Drori, in charge of Israeli action in Lebanon, meet Flange in first discussion of militiamen's entry into the camps, according to General Drori's testimony.

Thursday, Sept. 16
10 AM: Israelis receive final orders that Falange to enter camps to sweep out close to 2,000 Palestinian guerrillas who have been firing from the camps, according to

General Drori and front-line Commander Amos Yaron.

Defence Minister Sharon testified he made the decision, basing himself on a June cabinet ruling to encourage the Falange to take an active part in operations.

11 AM-3 PM: General Drori and General Yaron hold several meetings with the Falange. Israelis agree to provide night-time illumination and back up the militia with fire if they meet strong guerrilla resistance. An agent of Israel's Mossad secret service appointed to act as a liaison officer with the Falange, Israelis decide to allow a force of 100-150 Falange into the camps, according to testimony of the two generals.

General Yaron has Israeli observation points set up on rooftops near the camp with "limited visibility" during the day and none at night, according to his testimony.

5-6 PM: Falange force enters camps. General Yaron told the inquiry he listened in on their communications line and ordered Israeli flare support.

7:30 PM: Israeli cabinet meets and is told of Falange entry into the camps. The only cabinet member to raise any concern about the move is Deputy Prime Minister David Levy. Chief of Staff Eitan warns Falange are "sharpening their knives" for revenge, according to meeting minutes read out by the commission in questioning. Mr. Begin testified he did not hear General Eitan because he was busy preparing summary of the meeting.

10-11 PM: General Yaron said he received irregular reports with fluctuating numbers of 120, 300, 45 killed, "terrorists and civilians" in the camp. He cannot confirm the reports and decides not to pass them on.
Friday, Sept. 17

5 AM: Lieutenant-Colonel Moshe Chevrone, a military intelligence officer, is awakened with a report that 300 people were killed in the camps. He testified he had the report passed on to Mr. Sharon's aide, Avi Dudai. Lawyers for Mr. Dudai have tried to establish report never reached him.

9 AM: Lieutenant Avi Grabovsky, a frontline soldier, sees Falange shoot five women and children. He reports to his superiors. He testified he was told an investigation was under way and he should not intervene.

11 AM: Communications Minister Mordechai Zippori is told by Israeli military correspondent Zvi Shiff that militiamen called Foreign Minister Shamir with the report Mr. Shamir acknowledges the conversation, but says the word "butchering" was never used. Mr. Shamir says he did not try to confirm the report.

11:30 AM: General Drori meets at the front with General Yaron who tells him of reports of a woman who said she was hit on the head with a rifle butt by Falange. He also reports on other west Beirut areas where Falange harming residents. General Drori testified he had "a bad feeling" about the operation and ordered the Falange to stop their action.

4 PM: General Eitan and General Drori meet Falange who say they are under American pressure to get out of the camps. General Eitan orders them to finish mopping up and leave camps by dawn.

6-8 PM: Foreign Ministry official Ariel Kenet testified he received a report via Israeli official in Beirut that U.S. envoy Morris Draper was concerned Falange entry to west Beirut could have "horrible results". He passes information to Foreign Ministry Director-General David Kinche

and to Defence Ministry. Mr. Sharon acknowledges receiving a message that Americans reporting Falange in the camp, but said he did not react because "there was nothing new in this".

8 PM: Haim Baron, deputy director-general of Foreign Ministry, said he received a call from an unnamed American official of rumoured Israeli shootings of Palestinians in a Beirut refugee camp, later proved untrue. He said he passed the information on to an aide of Mr. Begin, but the aide, Lieutenant Azriel Nevo, denied he ever spoke to Mr. Baron about this.

8:30-9 PM: Mr. Sharon spoke to General Eitan who told him the Falange had "caused more civilian casualties than expected." Eitan told him the militia had been ordered out by dawn, according to the defence minister's testimony. Saturday, Sept. 18

5-6 AM: General Yaron sees from Israeli forward outpost Falange leading Europeans out of the camp. Falange claim their prisoners are Baader-Meinhof terrorists. Israeli question them and discover they are doctors from the camp hospital.

6-7:30 AM: Last of Falange leave the camps. Morning hours: A furious Mr. Draper calls Israel's Foreign Ministry representative in Beirut, Bruce Kashdan, to say he has people counting dead bodies in the camp and clearly holding Israel responsible.

Zev Zacharin, an aide to General Eitan, testified the general told him Mr. Begin called in the morning to ask about reports of Israeli shootings in Gaza hospital, bordering the camps. Mr. Begin denied ever making the call and said he was in synagogue all morning.

Mr. Begin said he first heard of the massacre in a BBC radio broadcast on Saturday evening.

Dunums by the hundred

JERUSALEM — The pioneers of Zionism, so legend has it, used to encourage their more faint-hearted colleagues by telling them that while they had such an order they would build the Jewish state "dunum at a time". This gradualistic concept had been central to Israel's colonisation of the occupied territories since their troops moved in 1967.

Today, however, with the full power of a modern state at their disposal and admiring acquiescence of the democratic world, the dunums come by the hundred. The Begin administration has accelerated the process, and made it a top priority to grab land and get settlers planted on it ever since the settlements question has become a matter of concern in Washington.

Conflict over confiscations has become an almost daily event. This week 64 landowners from three villages near Jenin became the latest in a long line of Palestinians who have taken out injunctions to stop work being carried out on their land. The high court ordered a stop to road construction on 1,200 dunums of their land which they said had started immediately after they had been informed verbally by the local military commander that it was confiscated. The order issued on

Dec. 15 should stop the work immediately. The same day, however, villagers from Beit Nahn, near Hebron, were complaining that while they had such an order and the court was considering their ownership claim, Israeli bulldozers were already clearing 3,000 dunums of their land.

Meanwhile farmers from Beit Jarar in the Ramallah district complained to the press that Israeli from a nearby settlement simply drove heavy equipment on to "several hundred dunums" of their land and started ploughing it up. Settlers, the villagers say, kept them off their property at gunpoint and are now claiming the areas as their own. At the end of a busy week for the court, Hebron municipality was granted an order which should halt military government plans to destroy Arab homes in the centre of the city.

The demolitions started over a month ago after the government announced that it was to sponsor an urban settlement in the town. As they accrue more and more land the Israelis are turning their full attention to increasing the number of settlers. In an announcement timed to coincide with the opening of the World Zionist Congress in Jerusalem on Dec. 9, settlement officials

announced that the number of Israelis in the occupied territories would double in the next three months to around 50,000. They based their estimate on the fact that planners expect to have finished 6,000 apartments in dormitory settlements within easy commuting distance of Israel's main urban centres. They say that they will be occupied immediately.

Settlement experts in Israel are encouraged, that middle-class Ashkenazi Jews have begun to take full advantage of regulations allowing them to own property in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip which were promulgated by the military authorities two years ago. According to local press reports they are now considering plans to encourage Oriental Jewish settlement in areas around Nahliis. At present kibbutz and Gush Emunim settlers are almost exclusively western Jews; the only opposition to settlement policy comes from groups supported mainly by Sephardim.

At the Zionist Congress fights broke out between Tami delegates and supporters of Begin's Herut party. Tami is a predominantly Moroccan Jewish party founded before the last elections. The fight started when Tami backers heckled speakers calling for more cash for settlements. With the increase of settlements and settlers and the apparent inability of outside forces to back their condemnations with muscle there is now speculation about how long it will be before the situation becomes irreversible. Elias Freij, the mayor of Bethlehem, puts the time scale as "two or three years" only on present efforts to stem the tide.

Meanwhile one Israeli liberal sees a link between the settlement surge and the latest outbreak of violence in the West Bank. Matti Peled, a retired general and leader of the small Sheli party, said in reaction to news that a Palestinian youth had been shot dead in Nahliis on Dec. 18: "This is part of an Israeli plan of oppression aimed at breaking the resistance of Nahliis in preparation for settlers to enter and erect settlements similar to that at Kiryat Arba in Hebron." Samir Taslaq died from chest wounds after border guards shot at the legs of demonstrators at a Nahliis school. The protesters were opposing the repeated curfews imposed on nearby Baalata refugee camp, the scene of several clashes between its occupants and settlers going to pray at an impromptu religious school set up nearby. Since settlers shot dead a local boy in October their cars and buses have been stoned almost daily. Residents tell reporters that they see the religious school as the first step in the path outlined by Peled.

Belgium: Unending economic crisis

By Ethan Bronner
Reuter

BRUSSELS — Belgium's centre-right coalition has survived a difficult year of harsh austerity measures but the country's unending economic crisis makes its future insecure. Twelve months ago Prime Minister Wilfried Martens put together his fifth coalition in four years and moved rapidly to set the crippled economy back on its feet.

He clamped controls on wages and prices, devalued the franc by eight and a half per cent, reduced social security payments, cut family allowances and provided incentives to industry through tax relief and the creation of enterprise zones. His survival thus far, and the victory for the centre and right in local elections last October, suggest Belgium is still willing to give his programme a chance. If the government serves its full four-year term, it will be a post-war record.

But unemployment, the highest in the European Community, has continued to rise, the country's main steel company is on the verge of bankruptcy, and the trade unions are fuming.

A variety of indicators show moderate success for the first year of what is called here the "Martens government mark five." Kredietbank, one of the country's leading commercial banks, estimates that next year's balance of payments current account deficit for the Belgo-Luxembourg economic union will be cut to about 100 billion francs (\$2 billion) from an estimated 150 billion francs (\$3 billion) this year.

The Belgian franc looks stronger than in many months and few predict any need for another devaluation. The country's retail index has risen nearly every month since May, the industrial production index rose more than 19 per cent in September, the latest available month, and export profit margins are up an average 15 per cent. To continue the upturn, Mr. Martens plans further wage and price restrictions and continued reductions in social security. Those, say Le Soir newspaper, will make 1983 an extremely difficult year for the average Belgian, whose real income will go down for the second year in a row. It suggests that will not make political survival any easier.

Serious threat

Early last month, the unions staged two successful general strikes and local government employees, including police and firemen, brought Belgium to a standstill in their own anti-government stoppages. The unions have threatened to make 1983 an even more troublesome

year. But another, potentially more serious threat comes from within Mr. Martens' own government.

The internal dispute concerns government aid to Cockerill-Sambre, the country's main steel production company. Last year, the coalition agreed to grant it 12 billion francs (\$240 million) in aid to save it from collapse. But the firm has announced the need for another 10 billion francs (\$200 million) in order to survive and the Flemish members of the coalition object to granting more money to French-speaking Wallonia, where Cockerill-Sambre is located.

The collapse of Cockerill-Sambre would put thousands of Belgians in the *dole queue* and cause a major blow to one of the country's principle industries.

The Dutch-speaking Flemish, who have always lived in uneasy partnership with the French-speaking Walloons, insist that further aid to the firm would deprive their region of much needed funds. Economy Minister Mark Eyskens, a member of the Flemish branch of the Social Christian Party, said last month that such funding should be taken out of the hands of the central government and given to the regional administrations.

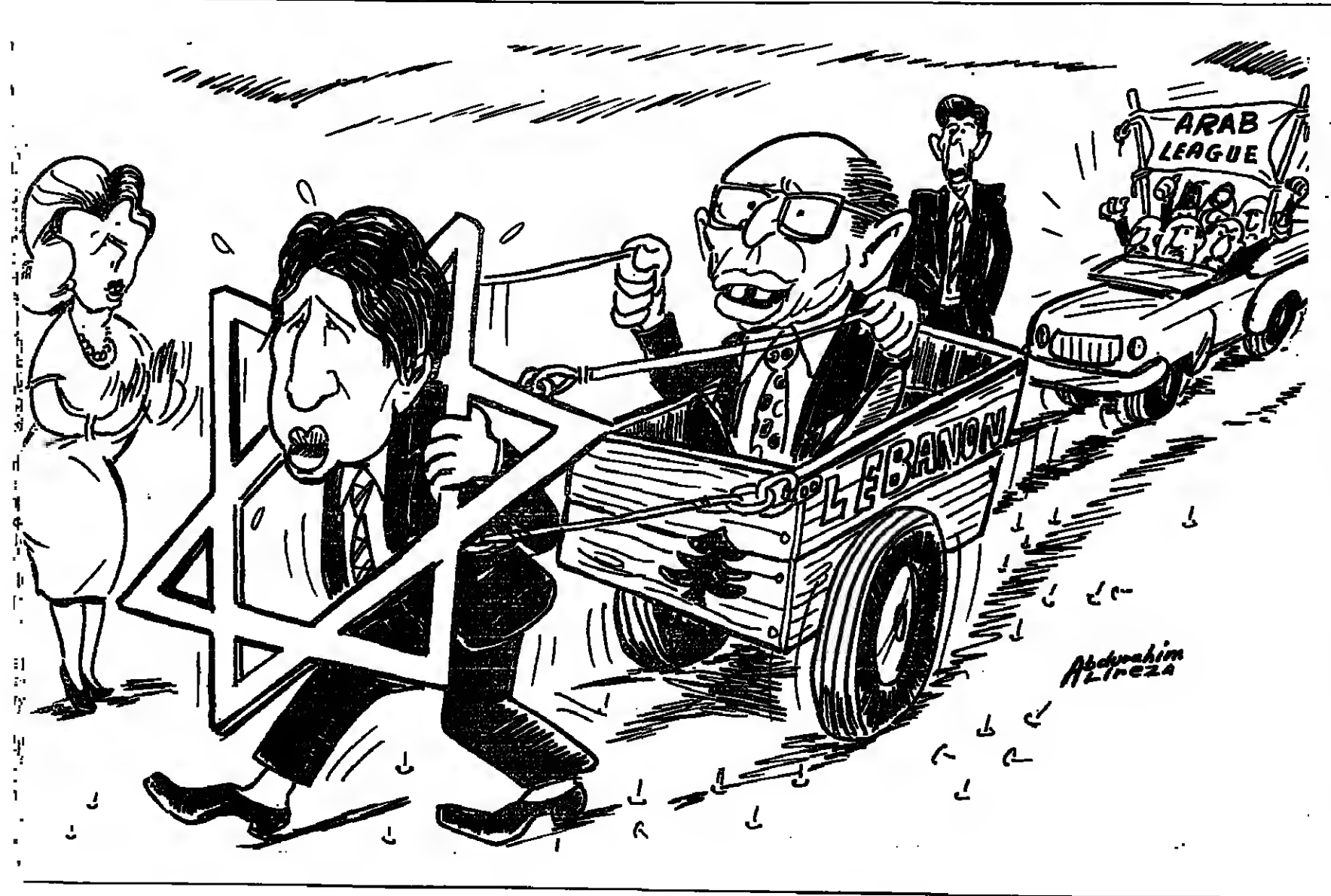
Political sources say this would vastly reduce the possibility of the aid being granted as the Walloon government could never afford it. Many of the Flemish Social Christians in the government agree with Mr. Eyskens, however, and Prime Minister Martens, also a Dutch-speaker, is in precarious position.

The French-speaking Liberal members of the coalition have expressed outrage at Mr. Eyskens' view. Louis Michel, president of the party, said a regionalisation of funding would spell the death of Wallonia.

Gloomy year

Cockerill-Sambre has already announced plans to cut pay by five to 10 per cent and lay off about eight per cent of the workforce in 1983, yet the firm faces a gloomy year ahead. By all accounts, so does Mr. Martens. He must bring his coalition to a decision on Cockerill, find new ways of stemming unemployment and encourage investment without alienating the workers or employers.

Banque Bruxelles Lambert said in a report that Mr. Martens measures thus far have been of real help to the corporate sector. But it added that if world demand continued to fall, Belgian industry would not recover.



مركز الصحافة

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WORLD

Turkey frees union leader

ANKARA (R) — An Istanbul military court has freed trade unionist Saban Aydin, the first of 52 members of the left-wing Confederation of Labour (DISK) accused of subversion to be released since their trial began over a year ago.

Mr. Aydin and the other DISK members were accused of aiming to establish Communist order in Turkey and he faced the death penalty.

At Friday's hearing Mr. Aydin told the military judges he had resigned from the "honorary board" of the confederation before the Sept. 1980 military coup, and he said he believed in the nationalist ideas of Kemal Ataturk, the first president of Turkey in the 1920s.

DISK members awaiting trial have said through lawyers that they have been tortured in prison.

Rebel colonel causes crisis in El Salvador

SAN SALVADOR (R) — President Alvaro Magana met El Salvador's military chiefs Friday night in discussion how to defuse the rebellion of a key army commander demanding the defence minister's resignation.

A military spokesman said Saturday the president also called the meeting to prove the rebellious officer, Col. Sigifredo Ochoa Perez, angry at being relieved of his post, only had the support of his own men in northern Cabañas province.

All battalion commanders except Col. Ochoa conferred behind closed doors with the president and Defence Minister Jose Guillermo Garcia, plus the navy, air force and national police chiefs, the spokesman said. He

gave no details of their talks.

Col. Ochoa Perez, 42, one of the toughest anti-guerrilla commanders, Friday staged the first open act of military rebellion in El Salvador's three-year civil war.

He told reporters he would no longer obey the defence minister and that his troops controlled all Cabañas province, which stretches from the centre of the country to the Honduran border.

He commands 3,500 men out of the 24,000-strong army. He first communicated his defiance in telephone calls to Western journalists, saying he was protesting at Gen. Garcia's order posting him as military attaché in Uruguay.

Col. Ochoa Perez has led his men into some of the fiercest fighting of the civil war. He described his posting as one of the many arbitrary assignments made by Gen. Garcia, an political, not military grounds.

He said he had tacit support from other battalions but denied that his rebellion was paving the way for the overthrow of the U.S.-backed government. "This is not a political movement or coup d'etat," he said.

Military sources said U.S. ambassador Deane Hinton had an urgent meeting with the defence minister on the situation.

Col. Ochoa Perez told Reuters by telephone that he reached no agreement with a delegation of senior military officers sent to reason with him Friday.

Court to see if Carstens was right

BONN (R) — West Germany's highest court will meet on Tuesday to consider whether President Karl Carstens acted legally when he dissolved parliament Friday to pave the way for general elections.

Mr. Carstens, himself a doctor of law, admitted in a television address Friday night that he had serious misgivings about the action.

But he had decided to meet the wishes of the four parties in parliament that the Bundestag (lower house) be dissolved and new elections held on March 6.

An official spokesman said the constitutional court would begin deliberations next Tuesday on a request by a private lawyer, Oskar Redelberger, for the president's decision to be set aside on the grounds that it violated the constitution.

Karl Hofmann, an independent Member of Parliament, said he also would complain to the court and other parliamentarians were thought to be considering similar moves.

The complaints arise from the manner in which Chancellor Helmut Kohl set the process in motion — by intentionally losing a vote of no-confidence though his government enjoyed a clear majority in the house.

Idi Amin's account frozen

KAMPALA (R) — The Kampala bank accounts of ousted dictator Idi Amin and hundreds of his supporters have been frozen on the orders of Uganda's president and finance minister, Milton Obote.

The latest government gazette said more than 1,000 accounts of individuals, shops and companies had been frozen, including Amin's account with the Libyan Arab Uganda Bank, frozen on Dec. 16, and those of some former ministers under Amin.

The gazette, which appeared Saturday, did not say why the accounts had been frozen or what sums were involved. Banks mentioned included the government-owned Uganda Commercial Bank, Grindlays, Barclays and Standard Bank.

Amin fled Kampala in April, 1979, as a combined force of Ugandan exiles and Tanzanian troops marched on the capital.

Four months ago, the Libyan Arab Uganda Bank was closed pending investigation amid Ugandan government allegations that Libya, a staunch supporter of Amin, was arming, training and financing guerrillas fighting the Obote government.

Riots follow in wake of S. Indian election

NEW DELHI (R) — A film star Saturday prepared to take power in the South Indian state of Andhra Pradesh and one of his first tasks will be curbing communal violence in which 11 people have died since Wednesday's elections.

Fresh troubles erupted Friday and police said three people were killed and 20 injured in clashes between Hindu and Muslim groups in curfew-bound districts of Hyderabad, the state capital.

The city had been tense since polling day, when fighting broke out between supporters of rival Muslim and Hindu candidates.

Voters made matinee idol N.T. Rama Rao chief minister of Andhra Pradesh while the Con-

gress Party of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was routed both there and in the neighbouring state of Karnataka.

Mr. Rama Rao, who is expected to be sworn-in Sunday to his first political office, has said he would like a public ceremony so that his supporters could be present.

Analysts said Mrs. Gandhi might draw a lesson from the declining fortunes of her party by loosening central control and allowing a grassroots leadership to develop.

In a rare front-page editorial, the Times of India said the drift in the party had exposed the organisation's true nature as "a rabble bound by no code or loyalty, a collection of individuals out to feather their own nests."

NEWS IN BRIEF

8 South Africans die in Namibia

PRETORIA (R) — The death toll among South African soldiers in a landmine explosion in north-west Namibia (South West Africa) rose to eight Saturday with the death of the last survivor, a Defence Force spokesman said. A follow-up operation in Namibia, where South African-led troops are fighting a 16-year bush war against black nationalist guerrillas is under way following the incident on Thursday.

Police raid home of Winnie Mandela

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Police raided the home of Mrs. Winnie Mandela, wife of jailed black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela, and seized books, documents, a bedspread and other items, neighbours said. The raid took place as two white opposition Members of Parliament were visiting Mrs. Mandela's home in the Orange Free State town of Brandfort. One of them, Mrs. Helen Suzman, told reporters the bedspread taken by police seemed to be in the colours of the banned African National Congress (ANC) or Zulu chief Gqatha Buthe's Inkatha movement.

Canadian minister arrives in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Canada's Minister of State for International Trade, Gerald Regan, arrived Saturday for talks with Kuwaiti officials on the second leg of a five-nation Gulf tour. A Canadian embassy spokesman said Mr. Regan would meet Omani Minister Sheikh Ali Al-Khalifa Al-Sabah, Finance Minister Abdul-Latif Al-Hamad and Commerce and Industry Minister Jassim Al-Marzuqi.

CIA compares U.S., Soviet diets

WASHINGTON (R) — American and Soviet citizens eat about the same amount of food each day, but the lower-calorie Russian diet with more emphasis on grain might be more nutritious. According to a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) report, both nationalities might be eating too much for good health. The CIA drew no conclusions about the nutritional makeup of the Soviet and American diets, but commonly assessed U.S. health views suggest the Soviet diet could be slightly better. According to the CIA, an average Soviet citizen consumes 3,280 calories a day, compared with 3,520 calories in the U.S. Americans eat more meat, fish, sugar, dairy foods, eggs, fats and oils and less grain than the average Soviet citizen, it said.

West German jailed in Poland for spying

WARSAW (R) — A Polish military court sentenced a West German businessman to four years in jail on charges of spying for Western intelligence services. The official PAP news agency said the indictment had accused Lech Jan Szamotulski of working for "the intelligence services of the United States and other NATO countries to the detriment of the interests of the Polish People's Republic." The agency said this involved relaying vital socio-economic information about Poland and Polish citizens, including those employed in West Germany. PAP added that the sentence, which is considered lenient in an espionage case, took into account the willingness of the accused to shed light on his intelligence activities.

Soviets surprised to hear about cardinal

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet officials said that Moscow had not been informed in advance of the nomination of the Soviet Union's first cardinal, Latvian Catholic leader Jūlians Vairods. Pope John Paul II included 87-year-old Monsignor Vairods among 18 prelates named as cardinals on Wednesday. They are due to be ordained at a Vatican ceremony on Feb. 2. A spokesman for the council for religious affairs, a government body which oversees all church affairs, told Reuters "This was something of a surprise for the Soviet Union."

TASS confirms U.S. report on Cosmos 1402

MOSCOW (R) — A Soviet announcement that one of its nuclear-powered satellites broke up last month effectively confirmed U.S. reports that the craft had run into trouble. Western diplomats said Saturday.

But they said there was still a major difference of opinion between Washington and Moscow over whether the satellite's power unit would pose any danger when it re-entered the earth's atmosphere.

The Soviet news agency TASS released a brief report Friday saying Cosmos 1402, described by U.S. officials as a spy satellite, had been fragmented under instructions from earth on Dec. 28.

Two versions of the same report left confusion about whether the

nuclear reactor had already entered the atmosphere and burnt up. But diplomats said they considered the first report, suggesting this was the case, had been inaccurately formulated.

U.S. government officials have said the part of the satellite containing the reactor is in a wild orbit after going out of control and should crash on earth at the end of January.

Diplomats familiar with Soviet space technology said the brief TASS announcement indirectly confirmed the U.S. reports by stating that the reactor would be destroyed by re-entry.

"This is never the way they deal with exhausted Sputniks. The standard practice is to fire the

power unit into a higher orbit," one said.

"By saying the reactor is going to come down to earth they have conceded that something went badly wrong," he added.

The U.S. government has said the satellite could spread radioactive debris over a large area after it burns up on re-entry and has put a special search team on alert in case it lands in the United States.

Western scientists have calculated that the crippled satellite is at present orbiting about 240 kilometres above the earth and falling about five kilometres a day—a rate that will gradually speed up.

According to U.S. intelligence sources, Soviet ground control

tried for a week after Dec. 28 to fire the rockets on Cosmos 1402 but had no success.

Western diplomats in Moscow said the Soviet Union had severely damaged its credibility on the satellite issue by issuing contradictory and ambiguous statements.

A day before the TASS announcement that the craft had broken up a Soviet space official told a press conference that Cosmos 1402 was still operating normally and was quite safe.

"The Russians look very silly trying to pretend there's nothing wrong when the Americans are pouring out details about the exact orbit and behaviour of the satellite," one diplomat commented.

Trudeau says East bloc offer 'worth considering'

SINGAPORE (R) — Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau said Saturday Soviet bloc proposals for a non-aggression pact with NATO were worth considering, but he described them as a clever move and urged caution in any negotiations on the subject with Soviet leader Yuri Andropov.

He told a news conference the Canadian position on the proposals, contained in a Warsaw Pact document issued after a summit in Prague earlier this week, was cautiously guarded. But he added Mr. Andropov had "hit upon some tactically sound avenues."

Mr. Trudeau, who is here as part of a tour of South East Asia and Japan, said: "I think the most we can say is that these proposals are worthy of consideration and they should be brought to the negotiating table."

He added, however, that he would be wary of Mr. Andropov if he were a negotiator. "I think that it was a very clever move."

Western governments have promised to study the proposals. British Foreign Secretary Fran-

cis Pym described the offer in a radio interview in London as being of "great significance" and "a very important moment in international affairs."

President Reagan told a news conference in Washington on Thursday night the idea was worth considering and something requiring consultation among all NATO members.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, speaking in Stuttgart, promised careful study of the document by Bonn.

Mr. Trudeau, turning to the subject of Kampuchea, said the non-Communist, five-nation association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) was wise and "playing the only game they can" in lobbying support for the democratic Kampuchea resistance coalition opposed to the Vietnamese-backed government in Phnom Penh.

But he added he did not think that arms supplies to the coalition would achieve a settlement. The key to a solution lay with Peking and Moscow, he said.

Vogel to discuss arms control with Soviets

WASHINGTON (R) — West German opposition leader Hans-Joachim Vogel, who says he has received assurances from President Reagan that Washington takes arms control seriously, now prepares for talks on the subject in Moscow next week.

Mr. Vogel is the Social Democratic Party (SPD) candidate for the chancellorship in West Germany's general election which, it was announced in Bonn Friday, will be held on March 6.

The Bonn announcement has given his two-day visit to Washington, amid throngs of German reporters, the air of a political campaign.

Emerging from a White House meeting with Mr. Reagan Friday, Mr. Vogel told reporters he wel-

comed West German President Karl Carstens' decision to hold the election.

Opinion polls show him trailing Mr. Kohl, but the SPD candidate's visit to Washington and his scheduled trip to Moscow next week are seen as a bid to enhance his political stature before the election.

An issue during Mr. Vogel's talks with Mr. Reagan, Secretary of State George Shultz and other officials was whether the SPD is backing away from the nuclear weapons policy of its former leader, ex-Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

The SPD leader has told reporters his message to Mr. Reagan is that his policy is fully consistent with Mr. Schmidt.

Andropov in trouble over Afghanistan in his own backyard

By Mark Wood
Reuters

MOSCOW — Soviet leader Yuri Andropov may have suffered a significant setback in his efforts to consolidate his power in the Kremlin after initiating new moves over Afghanistan, some Western diplomats in Moscow believe.

Two recent official statements reiterating a headline stand on conditions for a withdrawal of Soviet troops contrasted sharply with signs of flexibility on the issue from Mr. Andropov himself when he took power in November.

The diplomats, some of them veteran Kremlin-watchers, said this suggested Mr. Andropov had faced strong opposition within the Communist leadership and been forced to back down.

There was also other evidence that the 68-year-old party chief was having difficulty establishing his full authority in the Kremlin, they said.

This included his failure to take over the state presidency, the second post occupied by his predecessor, Leonid Brezhnev, and the fact that he had not made a major policy speech at celebrations marking the 60th anniversary of the USSR last month.

"It is probably still too early to draw definite conclusions but Andropov is clearly not getting all his own way," one diplomat said.

"Either he is still facing resistance from those who opposed his nomination as leader, or he has already made new enemies since he took over," he added.

Just three days after he assumed office on Nov. 12, Mr. Andropov launched into a series of talks on the Afghanistan issue with the Pakistani, Indian and Afghan leaders who were in Moscow for Mr. Brezhnev's funeral.

Pakistani President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq reported later that there had been signs of "freshness" in the Soviet attitude on the issue.



Afghan guerrillas with downed Soviet plane: The decision to carry on the war may not be Andropov's own.

Pakistan had long been vilified in the Soviet press and the fact that Mr. Andropov saw President Zia at all was significant. The official media underlined this by giving him great prominence in coverage of the visiting leaders.

Afghan leader Babrak Karmal, on the other hand, was shown only briefly and his talks in the Soviet capital were given relatively little space in the daily press.

A month later the signs of movement and change had evaporated.

Sudden tough line

The party daily Pravda issued a hard-hitting policy statement that Moscow's support for the Kabul government was irreversible and

that the conditions for a pullout of more than 100,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan remained unchanged.

Mr. Karmal was given celebrity treatment when he flew to Moscow for the 60th anniversary celebrations and was presented to the foreign press corps so he could declare he still had full Kremlin support.

Last weekend the official news agency TASS issued a second official statement on Afghanistan, again stressing there was no alteration in Moscow's standpoint.

The diplomats contend that there has been a clear turnaround since Mr. Andropov's talks in November and that it appears to amount to a personal defeat for the party chief.

But they also caution that it is still risky to read a lot into recent developments, partly because Mr. Andropov has never made any public statements on Afghanistan, and also because of the secrecy and mystery which surrounds the Kremlin leadership.

A common theory is that Mr. Andropov moved fast to initiate steps towards an Afghan settlement in the hope that he could outmanoeuvre his Kremlin opponents before they had time to object. This theory suggests he then lost the gamble.

Some diplomats say he may have been called to a halt by the military, which is believed to have helped Mr. Andropov to power, but is also said to favour staying put in Afghanistan.

Baffling inconsistencies

If the new party chief did suffer a political defeat so soon after taking office, it could explain the other apparent inconsistencies of his rule since then.

Mr. Andropov had been widely tipped by Soviet officials to take over the presidency when the Supreme Soviet (parliament) met for a two-day session on Nov. 23.

This would have sealed his authority both within the Soviet Union and in the outside world and made clear the leadership issue had been settled completely. But the party chief was not nominated for the vacant post and the Soviet Union was left without a head of state.

The other puzzle was Mr. Andropov's surprisingly brief speech at the 60th anniversary meeting in the Kremlin on Dec. 21, which was his first public appearance as leader.

Some analysts believe Mr. Andropov has thus been given the green light for some policies but has failed to gain support for many others.

His stands on arms talks with the United States and on developing links with China followed a direction already evident under Mr. Brezhnev and were unlikely to arouse opposition.

By the same token the drive against corruption which already has become the hallmark of Mr. Andropov's rule probably enjoyed wide backing anyway in the upper party hierarchy, the analysts said.

This partial support could also explain why Mr. Andropov had so far made relatively few personnel changes, and why those that had been undertaken were largely in the realm of stiffening the battle against crime and graft.

"There are strong indications of a continuing power struggle but we'll have to wait for more pointers before making a firm judgment on which way it's going for Andropov," one diplomat said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ Q104
♦ AK74
♦ AK63
♦ K5

WEST EAST
♦ 985 ♦ 76
♦ Q9653 ♦ J1082
♦ Q982 ♦ J105
♦ 7 ♦ J632

SOUTH
♦ AKJ32
♦ Void
♦ 74
♦ AQ10984

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
4 NT Pass 5 ♥ Pass
7 ♠ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Nine of ♠.

It does our hearts good when we hear of octogenarians performing feats at the bridge table. This hand, from a tournament in Cannes, was reported by Jose Le Dentu and features Ado Eichel, still young in mind at age 82. He and his partner were using an artificial club system. In effect, South's jump to three clubs showed a strong two club bid and thereafter the auction was natural. North-South did well to stay clear of the more normal spade grand slam, which would have offered no practicality at all.

West led the top of nothing in spades, and declarer won the jack. The contract looked simple until West showed out on the second round of trumps. To make his contract, declarer needed a trump coup. For that to succeed, however, East had to follow to three rounds of spades. But what if East held only two spades?

Eichel devised as pretty a bit of deception as it has been our pleasure to witness. He entered dummy with the ten of spades and cashed the ace-king of hearts, discarding the ace-king of spades from his hand! Now he led a third round of spades.

East was afraid that if he ruffed the third spade, declarer would overruff and his trump trick would vanish. He thought that he could simply discard on this trick, and then sit back and wait for his trump trick. Declarer proved him wrong.

After the queen of spades held, declarer ruffed a heart, crossed to the ace of diamonds and ruffed another heart. Now his trumps were down to the same length as East's, and both of them still had a diamond. Declarer re-entered dummy with the remaining high diamond, and led a diamond from the table. No matter what East did, his trump trick disappeared and the grand slam rolled home.

We warned you not to trust these 82-year-olds!